

insight into the logistics requirements of systems support. He has a broad background in integrated logistics support management and the application of this process to both developmental and fielded material.

General Eicher joined the American Defense Preparedness Association in 1984 as vice president, technical services. He was responsible for the overall operations of the technical services, which consists of 26 technical divisions, and for the conduct of over 50 meetings a year. His additional responsibilities included conducting studies and roundtable type meetings, publication of white papers, and a wide range of support activities for the Department of Defense and other U.S. Government agencies.

As vice president, technical services, General Eicher was in the forefront of the efforts to define and maintain a viable industrial base consistent with national security interests. His skillful leadership was especially crucial during the ongoing adjustments in post-cold-war defense policies. His insights were regularly sought by the Department of Defense, thereby enhancing ADPA's contribution to the formulation of industrial base policies. ADPA's enviable reputation as a forum for ethical dialog between Government and industry is largely attributable to General Eicher's vision and his keen appreciation of industrial base issues. Working with industry and Government volunteers, he consistently designed and directed programs of exceptional technical conferences that are the hallmark of ADPA's service to the Nation and defense community.

Mr. Speaker, General Eicher's distinguished career is a model of hard work, loyalty, and patriotism. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his contributions to our Nation. Furthermore, I want to extend my congratulations to General Eicher for being honored as this year's recipient of the William R. Moseley Award. I wish General Eicher and his family success and happiness in the coming years.

GUESS WHAT CLUNKY BUREAUCRATIC MACHINE COMES IN NO. 1

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, you, Mr. Speaker, like to talk about the withering away of Medicare. When questioned about your statement, you say you didn't really, really mean for Medicare to whither away, just the agency that administers it, the Health Care Financing Administration [HCFA]. You like to make fun of HCFA as a clunky, bureaucratic machine.

I'm not sure what the difference is between destroying a program and destroying its administration, but I hope you will take the time to read the enclosed opening paragraphs from the American Medical Association's newspaper American Medical News of August 26, 1996.

MEDICARE SHAPES UP CLAIMS

Q: What well-known health insurer has the highest proportion of claims filed electronically, the lowest average cost per claim processed, and has cut the real cost per claim processed by 85% since 1975?

A: It's not some hotshot entrepreneur or Wall Street wonder company.

It's Medicare.

You know, that federal program run by the Health Care Financing Administration and the gang of 34 (carriers).

Medicare is the undisputed leader in electronic claims. The program now electronically processes 79% of all claims and nearly 71% of Part B claims. That compares with 66% of claims for the runner-up, the nation's Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans, and a paltry 20% for commercial carriers.

Increasing electronic claims processing has been the major factor in driving down Medicare's processing cost per Part B claim from \$8.03 (in today's dollars) in 1975 to 94 cents in 1995.

But HCFA isn't resting on its laurels. Over the next six to 12 months, the agency will begin implementing several measures designed to increase claims processing efficiency and lower costs even further.

A first step will be taken toward standardizing electronic claims formats. New universal provider identification numbers will be issued, and a uniform payer identification system will be developed. National uniform claims review standards will be expanded, and steps will be taken to shift routine claims processing from the local carriers to two giant processing centers.

All of these initiatives could help physicians by streamlining medical review, coordination of benefits with non-Medicare payers and speeding payments.

TRIBUTE TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE MIDAS INTERNATIONAL CORP.

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding group of workers in my district who were recently recognized for their commitment to quality and safety in the workplace—the 231 employees at the Midas International Corp. facility in Bedford Park, IL.

The facility was recently selected by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA] for participation in the Voluntary Protections Programs [VPP] as a Merit site. The VPP program recognizes worksites for achieving excellence in their safety and health programs through cooperation among labor, management, and the Government. The Merit is often a stepping stone to the Star Program, the highest level of participation in the VPP.

The Midas Bedford Park, which manufactures motor vehicle parts and accessories, is the second site in my district to achieve the honor of VPP approval. The OSHA review team commended Midas for its strong commitment to safety and health at the facility. The Midas workers are represented by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 781.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the workers and management of the Midas Bedford Park facility on this great achievement and wish them continued success in maintaining health and safety at their workplace.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RAYMOND CONTESTI

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the March of Dimes is an organization with a noble mission: to fight birth defects and childhood diseases. We all share the March of Dimes dream which is that every child should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

For the past 13 years, the Southeast Michigan Chapter of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation has honored several Macomb County residents who are outstanding members of our community and have helped in the campaign for healthier babies. On the evening of Wednesday, September 25, 1996, the chapter will be hosting the 13th annual "Alexander Macomb Citizen of the Year" award dinner. The award, instituted in 1984, is named after my home county's namesake, Gen. Alexander Macomb, a hero of the War of 1812.

This year, the March of Dimes has chosen Dr. Raymond Contesti as a recipient of the award. Dr. Contesti, the youngest of 10 children, learned at an early age that service to one's community is the way to a good life. Throughout his distinguished career as an educator and superintendent of schools, he has been recognized for outstanding commitment to his community. In 1995 he was named "Citizen of the Year" by the Mount Clemens General Hospital Foundation and "Distinguished Citizen of the Year" by the Boy Scouts organization in 1994 as a champion of youth involvement. They could not have chosen a more deserving human being.

Dr. Jonas Salk's polio vaccine is just one of the more famous breakthroughs that would not have been possible without March of Dimes research funding. Without people like Dr. Raymond Contesti the job of protecting babies would be that much more difficult.

I applaud the Southeast Michigan Chapter of the March of Dimes and Dr. Raymond Contesti for their leadership, advocacy, and community service. I am sure that Dr. Contesti is honored by the recognition and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting him as a 1996 recipient of the "Alexander Macomb Citizen of the Year Award."

TRIBUTE TO SOLID ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH OF PATERSON, NJ

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Solid Rock Baptist Church of Paterson in the Eight Congressional District in New Jersey.

Next year, Mr. Speaker, the Solid Rock Baptist Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary as a spiritual leader in the Northern New Jersey area. The church was founded in September 1947 when a group of four deeply religious souls, Deacon Miledge Primus, Minister James Shropshire, Sister Lucille Scott, and Sister Catherine Primus, sought to create a place of sanctuary.